

*Presents Citations to Kiyoshi Kuromiya Award Winners*

June 2, 2010

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** — Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) joined Philadelphia FIGHT, a leading HIV/AIDS organization that promotes education, advocacy, and research, as an honorary host of their AIDS Education Month Opening Event. Through their clinics across Philadelphia, the largest network in the city, FIGHT has made dramatic progress in improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

“Over the past few decades, because of the determined action of organizations like Philadelphia FIGHT, those with HIV and AIDS have left behind a world of hopelessness where they were treated like second-class citizens and now live in a society that offers support and understanding and in an age of hope driven by tremendous advances in the health care and treatment of the disease,” said Congressman Sestak. “This month, the nation will focus its attention to AIDS education to ensure that we continue toward greater understanding, prevention, and treatment and a better future for the entire HIV/AIDS community.”

The Congressman presented citations to the four winners of the Kiyoshi Kuromiya Awards. Mr. Kuromiya, a leading activist in the civil rights struggle, is remembered through this award, which commemorates the 10th Anniversary of his death. The award recipients, Julie Davids, Asia Russell, David Acosta, and Roy Hayes, all stood with Kuromiya during his life and continue his work.

“These men and women honor Mr. Kuromiya's memory profoundly through their acts and deeds, leading the fight for those living with HIV/AIDS today,” said the Congressman. “We should all try to follow their example and emulate his brave work in order to create a better and healthier future for us all.”

Congressman Sestak, who made expanding and improving healthcare for all a leading priority in his work in Congress, has put a focus on HIV/AIDS research and care, including co-sponsoring legislation to expand early treatment for HIV and passing legislation to raise and reauthorize funding to fight global HIV/AIDS.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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